

**CHILD WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2015
MEETING MINUTES**

Members present:

Jerry Foxhoven, Wendy Rickman, Jake Carmi, Susan Walkup, Jim Hennessey, Gail Barber, George Belitsos, Rep. Marti Anderson, Julie Heiderscheit (phone), Ann Gruenwald(phone), Jean McAleer(phone), Nancy Magnell(phone).

Members Absent:

Chris Secrist; Edwin Daye, Julie Mann Phillips, Sen. Amy Sinclair, Sen. Amanda Ragan, Rep. Rob Taylor, Charles Palmer, Sen. Dennis Guth.

Visitors present:

Kara Lynn Regula, Department of Human Services
Kristie Oliver-, Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa
Don Burgmaier, Iowa Family Rights
John Harvey, Iowa Family Rights
Terry Bailey-AMP
Kenneth Ohms- Legislative Services Agency
Nancy Clark Stillians-Research & Advocacy

Approval of Minutes:

Meeting called to order 1:05 p.m.

Report on APSR Systemic Factors:

Kara Lynn gave a presentation on the 7 Systemic Factors (see attachment). They are:

1. Information System
2. Case Review System
3. Quality Assurance (QA) System
4. Staff and Provider Training
5. Service Array and Resource Development
6. Agency Responsiveness to the Community
7. Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

Kara Lynn gave a brief summary of each of the systemic factors; the handout is a summary of a much larger report. George pointed out an error that talks about CWAC, and Kara Lynn will update that section.

The Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) 7 outcomes and 7 systemic favors are now required to be reported in the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) and Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR). The document provided to CWAC is from the report that was submitted this year. Once it is approved, we will post it on our web site.

The 7 Systemic factors undergird the system enabling frontline workers to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being for the children and families served.

The Systemic Factors are as follows:

1. **Information System:** Iowa's child welfare information system (CWIS) readily identifies information for each child placed or within the immediately preceding 12 months placed into foster care, and covers legal status, demographic characteristics, location and goals for the placement.
2. **Care Review System:** There are several components of this systemic factor: written case plan, periodic reviews, Permanency hearings, filing for termination of parental rights (TPR) and notice of hearings and reviews to caregivers.
3. **Quality Assurance (QA) System:** Iowa initiated in 2013 an analysis of the QA system based on standards contained in ACYF-CB-IM-12-07 to evaluate current performance and identify gaps in the system.
4. **Staff and Provider Training:**
 - Staff Training covers new worker training and ongoing training through in-person trainings, blended learning, inclusive of webinars, online training, etc. DHS has requirements for new worker training and ongoing staff training.
 - Provider Training includes training through the Child Welfare Provider Training Academy for service providers, Iowa's foster and adoptive parent and recruitment contract (Iowa KidsNet) for initial pre-service licensing training, and Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (IFAPA) for ongoing training of foster parents after initial licensure. These trainings also open to DHS staff depending upon slot availability.
5. **Service Array and Resource Development**

Iowa's child welfare service array provides enhanced flexibility and embraces strength-based, family-focused philosophies of intervention. The goal of the service array is to be responsive to child and family cultural considerations and identities, connect families to informal support systems bolster their protective capacities, and maintain and strengthen family connections to neighborhoods and communities. Most of the services are listed in this section. George noticed that there are some transitioning services missing from the list, such as Aftercare

(PAL). Kara Lynn will add these services to the document. Services are mentioned in the actual APSR under the Chafee Report section.

6. **Agency Responsiveness to the Community**

This area covers collaboration with contracted service providers, Child welfare Partners Committee (CWPC), Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC), Differential Response and Children's Justice.

7. **Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention**

Several components comprise this systemic factor: foster and adoptive parent licensing, shelter and group care facility licensing, requirements for criminal background checks, diligent recruitment of foster and adoptive homes and state use of cross-jurisdictional resources of permanent placements.

Kara Lynn also asked as a group if CWAC would like to be provided with data on a regular basis and that way CWAC would be able to make recommendations on an ongoing basis. CWAC members indicated they would like to do so.

Update on Legislation Affecting CWAC—SF 505

Jerry talked about a project that the Legislative has charged CWAC with (SF 505). CWAC needs to complete a study for a procedure within the Department of Human Services for receiving complaints from families involved in guardianship, placement, and custody proceedings. This is due to the Legislature by December 15, 2015. Jerry asked for members that would like to be a part of this process. Jerry will send out minutes of the meeting to all CWAC members.

Report on Children's Justice Activities:

- Education Collaborative:
Gail's update started with the Education Collaborative. There is a leadership group that is made up of DHS Director Chuck Palmer, Previous Justice Director Buck, Justice Appel, and David Boyd. The leadership group asked for a work plan, and memorandum of understanding so data can be shared. They want to look at the achievement of the kids in Iowa to see if they have been getting the credits that they need to graduate. They will be forming work groups and there will be tri chairs which will consist of a person from the Courts, Education and DHS. The workgroups will report back to the leadership group on a regular basis. George asked if there could be youth on the committee.

- **Children's Justice Update:**

Children's Justice will hold a training on Substance abuse for Child welfare workers and contract providers on November 30th. The training is limited to 75 participants. A variety of level of workers were asked to attend. they will be asked to give feedback so they can determine if this is a training is one that should replicated in the future.

December 1st and 2nd will be the Children's Justice Summit. On the 1st day the topic will be about Human Trafficking. They will be working with Public safety to set the agenda for this day. The 2nd day they will take a look at the family treatment court and CHINA cases, and they will also look at what safe baby court is doing in CHINA cases. CWAC will be notified as soon as an agenda has been completed. Day 2 is still in the planning stages and more will be shared with CWAC when it is final.

- **Human Trafficking Webinar:**

On October 16th there will be a webinar on Human Trafficking for Judges and Attorneys.

Update on DHS Budget-Wendy

DHS adopted the Governor's budget (2017), this means the department is not asking for any additional dollars.

Child Welfare dollars scheduled for reversion will be reserved to assist with the SFY15 and SFY16 Medicaid budget deficit.

As was discussed at previous meetings CFS will also be paying the Medicaid costs for foster children. This will limit somewhat the amount service area managers have to designate to area DECATS but due to the extremely high balances being maintained in DECATS statewide, the impact should be minimal.

Public Comment:

Public comments emphasized the following issues/opportunities:

Parents need to be involved at every step in the life of their case.

Social workers need to be more cognizant of the rights of parents constitutionally

Social workers need to be more aware of the impact of removals on the lives of the children they serve.

Future Meeting Date: December 11th 1:00 to 3:00 in the library at the Drake Legal Clinic.

Adjourn: 3:05 p.m.



CWAC 9-23-15
Meeting Document - (



SF 505.pdf



Attachment A -
Foster Caregivers Su